

Training and PPE

Once the workers have access to MSDS sheets, and have been taught how to use them effectively, the next step in their training involves the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The purpose of PPE is to shield or isolate individuals from the chemical, physical, and biologic hazards that may be



encountered. Careful selection and use of adequate PPE should protect the respiratory system, skin, eyes, face, hands, feet, head, body, and hearing. No single combination of protective equipment and clothing is capable of protecting against all hazards. Therefore, PPE should be used in conjunction with other protective methods, such as enclosed cabs or self-contained mixing and loading systems. For any given situation, equipment and clothing should be selected that provide an adequate level of protection. The pesticide label directs all workers, handlers and applicators to wear PPE. Employers must provide this PPE and make sure that employees wear all the required equipment, as well as ensure that the equipment is properly washed and cared for.

Providing proper training on the use of MSDSs and PPE ensures that employers are doing the most they can to reduce their employees' risk of exposure to hazardous substances.

MAINE BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard

For applicators and
dealers dedicated to
safety in the
workplace

This brochure contains information adapted from the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard website, and various sources at the BPC.

The OSHA Hazard Communications web site is at:
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/>



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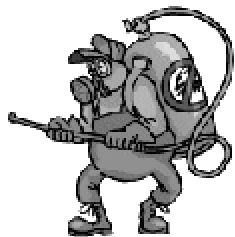


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A little about HAZCOM

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates more than 32 million workers are exposed to 650,000 hazardous chemical products in more than 3 million American workplaces.

The basic goal of a Hazard Communication Program is to be sure employers and their employees know about work hazards and how to protect themselves from chemical source illness and injuries.

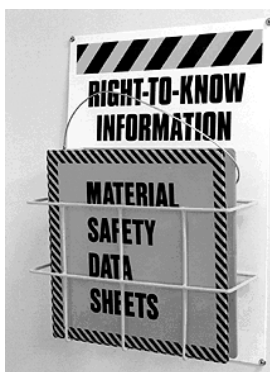


Chemicals pose a wide range of health hazards (such as irritation, sensitization, and carcinogenicity) and physical hazards (such as flammability, corrosion, and

reactivity). OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HAZCOM) ensures that employers and workers know about these hazards and how to protect themselves. This is accomplished by requiring chemical manufacturers and importers to evaluate the hazards of the chemicals they produce or import, and to provide information about them through labels on shipped containers and more detailed information sheets called material safety data sheets (MSDSs). All employers with hazardous chemicals in their workplaces

must prepare and implement a written hazard communication program.

Each employee who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals at the workplace must be provided information and trained prior to working with a hazardous chemical, and whenever hazards change. This is also referred to as the Workers' Right to Know. Employees have a right to know what chemicals (including pesticides) they are working with, the health risks associated with those chemicals, and what they can do to reduce the risk.



HAZCOM requires employers to train their employees to use MSDS sheets and to wear or use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). When workers have access to this information, they can effectively participate in their employers' protection programs and take steps to protect themselves. Together these actions will reduce exposure to chemicals and lost work time.

Written HAZCOM Program

All workplaces where employees may be exposed to hazardous chemicals must have a written plan which describes how the standard will be implemented. Additionally, employers must ensure that all containers are labeled, employees are provided access to MSDSs, and an effective training program is conducted for all potentially exposed employees.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to obtain or develop a material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical they produce or import. Distributors are responsible for ensuring that their customers are provided a copy of these MSDSs. Employers must have an MSDS for each hazardous chemical used in their business.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is a document that contains information on the potential health effects of exposure and how to minimize risks. It is an

essential starting point for the development of a complete health and safety program. It contains hazard evaluations on the use, storage, handling and emergency procedures related to that material. The MSDS may contain more information about the material than the label. It is designed to explain the hazards associated with the product, how to minimize risk of exposure, what to expect if the recommendations are not followed, how to recognize symptoms of overexposure, and what to do if such incidents occur.